Ansd Aug. 9th 1838.

RESOLUTIONS

RELATIVE TO POINTS OF CHRISTIAN DUTY,

ADOPTED BY THE

SANDWICH ISLANDS MISSION,

MAY, 1837.

Feeling more and more impressed with the importance of the missionary work, and penetrated with the amazing neglect with which the professed followers of Christ are chargeable in reference to their dying fellow men, and unable to hold our peace while they who dwell at ease in Zion continue to slumber, we would here express our united opinions, and belief, on several important points of Christian duty in the form of the following resolutions:

1. Resolved, That the plan of efforts hitherto contemplated by the church and her leading ministers, for converting the world, is very far short of her ability, and utterly inadequate to the end in view, and of course, by no means equal to the requisitions of her Lord.

2. Resolved, That the inspired injunctions of self denial, economy, frugality, retrenchment and benevolent effort, and the gospel prohibitions against laying up treasures on earth for the purposes of personal aggrandizement, luxury and ease, are binding in common, and to the same extent, on the Christian at home and the missionary abroad, and therefore both should be governed by the same principles, and measured by the same rules.

3. Resolved, That on an average, 100 Christians at home could sustain one of their number abroad, or every hundred Christians, a missionary to the heathen—that most of the churches might afford each a man for the missionary field, and sustain him there—that many churches could afford several for that purpose, and that there are local churches in the United States, one of whom could alone sustain the American Board, at its present rate of expenditure, without danger of being impoverished.

4. Resolved, That those who accumulate weath for themselves, and do not honor the Lord with their substance, live in violation of the commands of Christ, expose their own souls to death, and deprive the dying heathen of the bread of life.

5. Resolved, That notwithstanding the present debt of the Board, the great embarrassment in carrying on the work of missions is still in the lack of *men* rather than of *money*.

6. Resolved, That the practice founded on the apprehension that benevolent efforts to save the heathen might retard the work of Christ in Christian countries, is preposterous, and utterly at variance with the precepts and promises of the Savior and unworthy of the countenance of every sober Christian.

7. Resolved, That to expect of missionaries and assistant missionaries to accomplish vastly more under the influence of a withering atmosphere, than is expected from ministers and Christians at home, is manifestly unreasonable,—and the deliberate expectation that schools and seminaries on heathen ground can and will accomplish vastly more than is usually expected from schools and seminaries in Christian lands is also entirely unreasonable and without foundation.

8. Resolved, That a contempt for men on account of their imbecility and degradation and color, and an unwillingness to make sacrifices for their elevation and salvation, is the very opposite of the Spirit of Christ and of the true spirit of missions.

9. Resolved, That the fact of 3.000.000 of the descendants of pagan Africa, and one or two millions of the Romanists from Europe, being in the midst of the evangelical Churches of the United States, while it imposes an obligation on them to labor cheerfully and with vigor for their immediate conversion, furnishes no valid excuse for not directing their chief energies to the unevangelized in other lands.

Rec'd during Spring vacation 1838.

Wailuku — Maui
Oct. 16. 1837.

{To the Society of Inquiry on missions
in Theo. Sem. — Princeton}

Dear Brethren;

According to a custom in this mission I am requested to write you, and with the affectionate salutations of my brethren to forward to you the above resolutions. The drift of them will be at once apparent to you all. It is nothing more nor less than to draw forth more of the energies of the churches & her ministers for the work of foreign missions than has hitherto been done

They may be regarded as a supplement to the resolutions & accompanying remarks, sent home last year by the hand of Mr Richards. What reception that document has met with or what these resolutions may meet with in the churches, we know not; But we out here are becoming more & more convinced that the spirit of them accords with that of Christ as well as with the feelings of every pious heart, and to take some such ground & maintain it, is as necessary to save the church as the heathen. Some such ground must be taken & manfully maintained or to talk of the world's conversion & a consequent millennium is in the highest degree chimerical. At the present rate of going & giving, it will not be brought about these 10.000 years, unless by miracles. In fact to take a deliberate survey of the church and the world, aside from the prophecies & promises of the Bible, would rather lead one to the conclusion that Christendom is about to become infidel, than that the heathen are about to become christians. So it seems to us at least at this distant point of observation & our newspapers are only six months after date.

But dear Brethren, this sentiment also is becoming more & more deeply impressed upon our minds that in order to draw forth the energies of the church generally for the work which her Lord has assigned her there must be a new spirit in her ministry. The

ministry must become more Apostolic in its character, & less conformed to the spirit of the world. More men must stand ready to meet the draughts for foreign fields & be more resolute in conquering the difficulties which arise in the way of their going. That effeminate, unmanly disposition to shrink from the perils & responsibilities incident to an enterprise, in which the Apostles panted to be engaged, & in which they all became martyrs, to say nothing of the Son of God himself, — and to seek out & cleave to excuses, (commonly more than half κατα σαρκα) must give way to a spirit of holy enterprise which shall fear no dangers and give way to no obstacles, until the knowledge of the Lord covers the earth. O if the ministry were as steadily, generally & resolutely bent on preaching the gospel to the heathen, as the wise men of this world are on gaining wealth, fame, honour &c, what a going to & fro there would be & how knowledge would increase! How soon the gospel would reach the ears of every heathen & the millennium come rushing upon us before we were aware of it. But such is not the spirit of the present race of ministers. Men of the world laugh at our inconsistency & infidel sneer at our prayers for a millennium, so long as we show by our conduct that we do not value it as much as they value the trifles of earth & time, nor as we ourselves value ease & home.

It is our firm belief that the salvation of the world lingers mainly because of the anti-Apostolic character and conduct of the ministry. Here is the root of the evil and until a remedy is successfully applied here, the church at large cannot be expected to consecrate herself to the work of saving the world. Every one acknowledges that more, many more ministers should go to the heathen than

do go. But then one feels too good to go, another too bad to go & a third locks the passion & a fourth is hindered by provi-dence, & that of all who leave our Theo. Seminaries, so far as we can judge by the catalogues, not the one twentieth ever reach a heathen land! And yet all acknowledge that the field is the world — that the heathen have souls which cannot be saved without a knowledge of Christ — that it is gods will & purpose that they have the Gospel, and that there is abundant encouragement to preach it to them! How is this amazing inconsistency to be accounted for before men or answered for before God? Is it right for men to assume an office involving an obligation of such overwhelming import to unnumbered millions, & then shrink from the actual performance? Is there not something like impiety & fraud about such conduct, as well as unfaithfulness to him who appointed the office in these words, "go ye into all the world & preach the Gospel to every creature"? — But we need not protract these remarks, since the whole subject is familiar to your minds.

I shall not write you any news in this letter, seeing I have written at some length to Br. Alexander, in regard to the state of things at the islands. He will doubtless communicate to you the substance of what I have written him. The good hand of God is still upon us & therefore we prosper

Very affectionately & truly yours

Richard Armstrong

(In behalf of the mission)

N.B. We shall expect to hear from you stately of course & we hope you will communicate freely your views & feelings in regard to the principles we have advocated in this mission